

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please delete the abstract and replace it with the following. A clean version of the abstract is attached.

A method of preparing metal mesoporphyrin ~~halide~~ compounds is described. ~~The~~A metal mesoporphyrin ~~halide~~ compound may be formed by forming a novel mesoporphyrin IX intermediate compound and then converting the mesoporphyrin IX intermediate to ~~the~~a metal mesoporphyrin ~~halide compound~~ through metal insertion. The novel intermediate compound may be formed by a catalytic hydrogenation of hemin in acid and subsequent recovery.